



GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION ON COMMUNITY SERVICE NEWSLETTER

OFFICE OF LT. GOVERNOR BARBARA O'BRIEN

VOLUME V

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ISSUE I

Upcoming Dates

Commission Meeting
Friday, June 13

Deadline for Formula Grants
Thursday, July 3

Independence Day
Friday, July 4

Commission Conference Call
Friday, July 11

Colorado Cares Day
Saturday, July 26

Commission Meeting
Friday, August 8

State Service Conference
October 6-7

AmeriCorps Week Kicks Off at Red Rocks

AmeriCorps held the first ever National Kick Off Event for AmeriCorps Week at Colorado's very own Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater on May 12th. 500 hundred



participants from across the State of Colorado and neighboring states such as Wyoming, New Mexico, Kansas, California, and others, came out for a day of service and fun.

The day began with a service project in the park. Members and guests went along trails and paths cleaning up litter, pulling harmful weeds, and clearing overgrown brush.

After the service project, park participants enjoyed the 1st Annual Governor's Community Service Award Ceremony hosted by Channel 7's Mike Landess. Awards were presented by Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien to AmeriCorps members as well as members of the community that exhibit the spirit of AmeriCorps.

Special recognition was also given to the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) as they celebrate their 75th anniversary this year. The CCC was responsible for the care of many national forests and building various landmarks such as Red Rocks Amphitheater.

The award ceremony was concluded with a presentation from Christine Benero, Chair of the Governor's Commission on Community Service, of a check for over \$22 million to the Lt. Governor and the State of Colorado. This is the amount that AmeriCorps has contributed to the Education Award since 1995.

Comedian Josh Blue, winner of NBC's Last Comic Standing and Colorado native, entertained participants before departing.



Christine Benero (left), GCCS Chair gives figures to Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien on AmeriCorps' Contributions to the State of Colorado.



**"BUILDING A
CULTURE OF
CITIZENSHIP,
SERVICE, AND
RESPONSIBILITY IN
COLORADO"**

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Gearing Up for the 10th Colorado Cares Day

Members of the Governor's Commission are preparing for the 10th Annual Colorado Cares Day. The day will be held on Saturday, July 26, 2008. Community Service Projects will take place all around the State of Colorado. The day will promote being active and will meet the needs of thousands of Colorado citizens.

Last year's Colorado Cares Day saw both Governor Ritter and Lt. Governor O'Brien take the day to put their own elbow grease in projects like cleaning up Cherry Creek State Park and restoring the washed out road at Gore Range Trail. In all there were 38 total service projects that took place across the state.

This year's event is expected to surpass the previous years' as the commission celebrates the 10th anniversary of the day. Projects are being planned in counties and cities throughout the Front Range and Mountain communities, and record turn out is expected. For more information on registering for the day, visit the commission's website at www.colorado.gov/gccs.



Message from Lt. Governor Barbara O'Brien

Dear Volunteers and Community Partners,

I am very proud that Colorado was chosen to host the National launch for AmeriCorps Week at our beautiful Red Rocks Park and Amphitheater. The hard work of the commissioners and staff to bring this event here and well presented is greatly appreciated.

It was inspiring to see so many hard working AmeriCorps members dedicated to serving their communities and the State of Colorado. Thank you for your efforts and great work on not only that day, but also everyday you serve in AmeriCorps.

As the summer approaches us, I am looking forward to celebrating Colorado's strong tradition of community service with the 10th Annual Colorado Cares Day. I hope that you will join in that day by participating in a project that will better Colorado.

Thank you all again for such great work and enthusiasm.

Barbara O'Brien
Lt. Governor



State Service Conference Expects Great Turnout



Hundreds of AmeriCorps members are preparing to head to Estes Park, CO for the 14th Annual State Service Conference. The two day long conference will be October 6th & 7th.

Members will be taking a number of workshops on organizing and completing service projects, leadership, and other

valuable traits that will not only help make them great AmeriCorps members, but will help make them successful individuals.

The GCCS is preparing to accept anywhere from 325-350 participants, up from last year. Save the date, as this will be a great event. Please contact Jovan at 303-866-6426 for more information.

A Word From the Chair

Dear Partners in Service:

This week I experienced the most extraordinary event as Colorado kicked-off AmeriCorps week at Red Rocks. I have never been more proud to be a Commissioner - nor is it possible for me to be more proud to be affiliated with our extraordinary Commission staff.

Standing on the stage at Red Rocks with members of the CCC and looking out at over 500 AmeriCorps members, I was once again reminded that the Commission, the Corporation, and all of its programs represent the very best of this country. Please join me in recognizing the amazing work of Toya, Terri, Mark, Jan and Jovan! We are blessed with this incredible team - a powerful Lt. Governor who believes in service - and a corps of people who get up everyday with the desire to serve and get things done.



My special thanks to all of you for the best kick-off event the Corporation has ever seen.

Christine Benero
Chair, Governor's Commission on Community Service

From the Desk of the Executive Director

Announcing Colorado Community Needs Assessment On Volunteerism and Civic Engagement.



The Mission of the Governor's Commission on Community Service is to "serve as a catalyst for the promotion and expansion of community service and volunteerism to all Colorado residents as an effective means to address civic and social issues." Every three years the GCCS produces a state service plan to guide development, determine service goals and priorities, and to

recommend the distribution of resources.

This year the GCCS has embarked on a new venture: a needs assessment project that will be the foundation for the development of the *2009-2011 State Service Plan*.

General information about community needs across Colorado will be obtained by mining databases and information from needs assessments conducted by national, state and local entities along with GCCS administered surveys.

In addition, deeper needs assessment in select communities will be obtained by convening community meetings, and conducting interviews in 6 communities, Alamosa, Durango, Greeley, Grand Junction, Lamar, and Pueblo. Input will be solicited from people from a variety of backgrounds and sectors, such as community leaders, appointed and elected officials, educators, business people, health care and human service providers, law enforcement, clergy, youth, non-profit organizations, and private foundations.

The needs assessment process will result in a comprehensive report which will be available in December 2008.

We welcome your input and hope you will join us by participating in this process. Please contact Janet Mickish PhD, Coordinator Community Planning Needs Assessment at 303-866-6408 or janet.mickish@state.co.us for more information.

Toya M. Nelson
Executive Director
Governors Commission on Community Service

COLORADO CARES 2008

Help fulfill Colorado's promise to Care about:



Health
Education
Youth Mentoring
The Environment
Public-Private partnerships
Early Childhood Development
Community Services and Volunteerism

SATURDAY, JULY 26, 2008

You are invited to participate in Colorado's 10th annual statewide day of service.

Colorado Cares 2008

Be involved by planning a service project or register with an on-going project.

Post your service project information on the
Colorado Cares website:

www.colorado.gov/gccs

Forms and a planning toolkit are available online

-or-

Volunteer for a project already posted

For more information on
Colorado Cares 2008,
volunteer activities or project sites
call: (303) 866.6426.

